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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Gdynia - Port Conditions/Buoys with Radar Reflectors

PLACE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

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CD NO.	
OO/C NO.	Guide 30
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DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

DATE DISTR. 23 Feb 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

25X1A

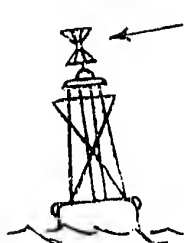
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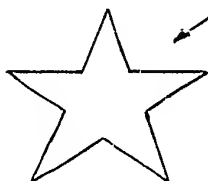
A seaman of long experience, 52 years old. He has been interviewed numerous times before in this port, which he has been visiting regularly for several years. He is cooperative and friendly, and has always cheerfully answered questions. He is considered to be a fairly reliable source.

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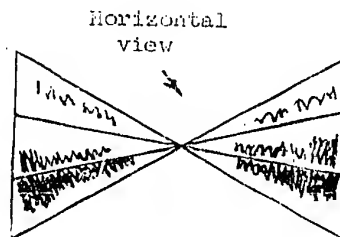
- Aids to Navigation. Source's vessel called at Gdynia from 26 - 29 Dec 53. He had observed the large lighted buoys equipped with radar reflectors, which were commented on by another Swedish mariner, also a recent visitor to Gdynia. Source agreed that aids to navigation at Gdynia were in excellent condition, and he too was much impressed by the buoy system.
- The Buoy System. Describing these buoys, source said that metal reflectors are placed on top of the buoys. From a distance they give the appearance of being two triangles joined at their apexes, the combined height being estimated as from two to three feet. The source said that he had studied the construction of these reflectors as best he could through binoculars, and believes that a vertical view would best be described as having the appearance of a star. He said that he had picked up these reflector buoys on occasion at distances of from eight to ten miles. He considered the channel to be easily navigable by radar.



Reflector



Vertical view



Horizontal view

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3. Security. Security measures which have come to be accepted by the source as standard for Gdynia were imposed on the vessel. There was a three-hour search inbound, and another three-hour one outbound. Security measures while in port were strict. Radio equipment is not sealed regularly every trip, according to the source. Procedure is varied: the radio will be sealed on one trip, and then be left unsealed for the next two or three trips.
4. Naval Vessels Sighted. Source said that he had observed no naval vessels of any type on this visit, except for the Polish naval training ship stationed at Gdynia. He said that he had not observed any destroyer or destroyer-like craft.
5. Merchant Ships Sighted. Source said there were nine or ten merchant vessels in port, some British but the majority Polish. He saw no Soviet ships or barges.
6. Unusual Event. For the first time in the course of perhaps sixteen or eighteen visits, there was a minor incident on this trip involving the ship's carpenter and a pair of Polish guards. The carpenter was carrying out some work under the supervision of the Chief Engineer; the latter was in uniform, the carpenter was not. The Engineer moved away and one of the Polish guards on duty on board said to the carpenter: "Ah, Comrade, I see that the lousy capitalistic officer is making you do all the work!". The carpenter answered: "I am not your comrade; if you repeat what you just said I will punch you right here!". The guards walked away.

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